Labour strike in the State

347. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to give a full account of all the labour strikes and disputes that have taken place within the State during the last one year and of the Government's share in settling them?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—There were three labour strikes in the State during the last year. For a full account of them and of the share the Government had in settling them, the Member is referred to the answer to Question No. 348.

348. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government give an account of the origin, growth and termination of the recent labour strikes.

(i) in Sita Ram, Trichur;
(ii) Day Brothers, Cochin; and
(iii) Motor Boat Syndicate, Cochin;
and (iv) of the part Government took in governing each?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(i) The Spindle boys, about 100 in number, were asked by the management to attend to 120 spindles a day instead of 100. This change they did not like and they struck work from 1st Thulam 1109. The management did not yield and the workers in other branches also struck work to show their sympathy.

(ii) At Day Brothers, there was a strike among the carpet weaving section of the coolies in March last. The coolies demanded higher wages. The Manager refused to concede to the demand and the workmen struck work. After two weeks they returned to work of their own accord and they were re-entertained. There was no disturbance of any sort.

(iii) From 16th June 1934, some of the coolies employed in boats belonging to the Motor Boat Syndicate began to avail themselves of sick leave and they kept back from duty. 60 coolies, one after another, struck work. On 26th June 1934 they came back and joined duty with a written apology. Their object was to get higher wages. The Syndicate was not agreeable to this. There was no disturbance of any sort.

(iv) Government interference was not found necessary in any of these cases.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to take it that the Government are not in a position to say how many labourers took part in the strike at Trichur?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Mr. President, it is very difficult. There was not the same solidarity among the labourers as we find in western countries. Anyhow a great number struck. They afterwards came in. It is quite open to the Hon'ble Member to ask what was the largest number or the smallest

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number. In regard to this I have absolutely no information. If the Hon'ble Member wants the information I shall collect it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—When I have asked a question like this 'origin, growth and termination'—it is a very broad question—was it not expected of the Government to be conversant with the actual number who struck work?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have no definite information. I shall collect it and give you.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was not the debts of this company mentioned in this House once before?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I do not know.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Have you any information about the total number of labourers who struck work at Day Brothers?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have no information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was not there resumption of work after an assurance on the part of the management in the case of the labourers in Sita Ram, Trichur?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The information says that without any concession they agreed to take up the work on their own terms.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Has there been any promise?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—That is not the information which I had.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do you know anything definite about it?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Are not these strikes a further sign of the distress caused by the Government in not having enforced civilised laws governing hours of work and wages?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It seems more due to the existence of inexorable laws over which the Government seems to have no control.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Are they aware of any neighbouring Governments which have enforced laws?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—In some countries there has been a certain kind of legislation.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to consider the importance of this legislation at least in future?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Government have already considered and this House has also considered and some legislation is pending—the Workmen's Compensation Regulation.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The Workmen's Compensation Regulation has nothing to do with hours of work and wages.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Sir, It is not possible to bring in all these things at the same time. We have made a beginning.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—At least will the Government expedite their consideration?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—That will depend upon the necessity.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Even if there is no necessity for the Government, in view of the tremendous strikes—3 enormous strikes in a small State like Cochin—will the Government be pleased to look into the importance of a legislation regulating the hours of work and wages ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The Hon'ble Member speaks about 3 enormous strikes in a very small State. In fact there were only some small differences between the employers and their employees. I am certain that when there is need the Government will not be slow to undertake it.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Have not Government promised to introduce something of this sort in this Session?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I speak subject to correction; I don't remember any such promise made, either by myself or by any other Hon'ble Member.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Anyhow will the Government promise that the Government will look into it urgently?

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Did the Sitaram Spinning Mills resent Government interference in their recent strike?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I have absolutely no information on that particular matter. But I can say that all the private enterprises do resent all Government interferences.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—My question was not answered whether that would be urgently looked into.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The matter will be looked into. To say that it will be urgently worked into is saying that there is some urgency in this matter. It will be certainly looked into if there is any need for it.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Am I to take it that more strikes are necessary ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Government do not apprehend any more strikes.

Co-operative Societies in the State—visit by the Registrar.

349. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the names of Co-operative Societies in each Taluk (i) in 1107 and (ii) 1108 ;

(b) the names of Co-operative Societies visited by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in (i) 1107 and (ii) 1108 ;

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